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Regd. No. B 1065

The Bombay Chronicle

Founder: Pherozechah Mehta

Editor: Sved Abdullah Brelvi

VOL. XXXI NO. 34

BOMBAY: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1943

PRICE: 1½ ANNAS

DENA INSURANCE

Authorised Capital ..Rs. 20,00,000
Subscribed Capital ..Rs. 10,00,000
Paid-up Capital ..Rs. 5,00,000

1st Year's Figures

Business Proposed ..Rs. 13,08,251
Business Completed ..Rs. 11,29,251
Premium Income ..Rs. 71,212
Life Funds ..Rs. 58,018

Devkar Nanjee Insurance Co., Ltd., will shortly start Fire Department.

MAHATMA COMMENCES FAST

DEMANDS OPPORTUNITY TO CLEAR UP CHARGE

"DO YOU WISH TO RETRACE YOUR STEPS AND DISSOCIATE YOURSELF FROM THE POLICY OF LAST SUMMER?" ASKS THE VICEROY

"I AM AS CONFIRMED IN NON-VIOLENCE AS I HAVE EVER BEEN. THIS TIME, RETRACING LIES WITH GOVT.," RETORTS GANDHIJI

Nationalist Raises Issue In Assembly

NEW DELHI, Feb. 10

Pandit L. K. Maitra (Nationalist Party) has given notice of two adjournment motions in the Central Assembly to discuss Mahatma Gandhi's fast and the situation created by it.

According to a Poona message Mahatma Gandhi is reported to have commenced his 21-day fast shortly before noon on Wednesday.

Gandhi-Linlithgow Letters

NEW DELHI, Feb. 10.
The following correspondence which has passed between the Viceroy and Mr. Gandhi is published. Mr. Gandhi has agreed to the publication of his personal letters of December 31, 1942 and January 19, 1943.

New Year's Eve, 1942.

(Personal).
Dear Lord Linlithgow.—This is a very personal letter. Contrary to the Biblical injunction, I have allowed many sins to set on a quarrel I have harboured against you, but I must not allow the old year to expire without disburdening myself of what is rankling in my breast against you.

I had thought we were friends and should still love to think so. However what has happened since the 9th of August last makes me wonder whether you still regard me as a friend. I have perhaps not come in such close touch with any other occupant of your 'gadi' as with you.

Your arrest of me, the communique you issued thereafter, your reply to Rajaji and the reasons given therefore, Mr. Amery's attack on me and much else I can catalogue to show that at some stage or other you must have suspected my 'bona fides'. Mention of other Congressmen in the same connection is by the way.

I seem to be the 'fons et origo' of all the evil imputed to the Congress. If I have not ceased to be your friend why did you not, before taking drastic action, send for me, tell me of your suspicions and make yourself sure of your facts?
I am quite capable of seeing myself as others see me, but in this case I have failed hopelessly.

Departure From Truth

I find that all the statements made about me in Government quarters in this connection contain palpable departures from truth. I have so much fallen from grace that I could not establish contact with a dying friend. I mean Prof. Bhansali who is fasting in regard to the Chhimur affair and I am expected to condemn the so-called violence of some people reputed to be Congressmen, although I have no date for such condemnation save the heavily censored reports of newspapers.

I must own that I thoroughly distrust these reports. I could write much more but I must not lengthen my tale of woe. I am sure that what I have said is enough to enable you to fill in details.

You know I returned to India from South Africa at the end of 1914 with a mission which came to me in 1906, namely, to spread truth and non-violence among mankind in the place of violence and falsehood in all walks of life.

My Patience Ending

The law of Satyagraha knows no defeat. Prison is one of the many ways of spreading the message, but it has its limits.

You have placed me in palace

where every reasonable creature comfort is ensured. I have freely partaken of the latter purely as a matter of duty, never as a pleasure, in the hope that some day those that have the power will realise that they have wronged innocent men.

I have given myself six months. The period is drawing to a close, so is my patience.

The law of Satyagraha is I know it prescribes a remedy in such moments of trial. In a sentence it is "Crucify the flesh by fasting." That same law forbids its use except as a last resort.

I do not want to use it if I can avoid it. This is the way to avoid it, convince me of my error or errors and I shall make ample amends. You can send for me or send someone who knows your mind and can carry conviction. There are many other ways if you have the will. May I expect an early reply?

May the New Year bring peace to us all. I am, your sincere friend, M. K. GANDHI.

Viceroy's Reply

II

January 13th, 1943.

(Personal).
Dear Mr. Gandhi.—Thank you for your personal letter of December 31st, which I have just received. I fully accept its personal character, and I welcome its frankness. And my reply will be, as you would wish it to be, as frank and as entirely personal as your letter itself.

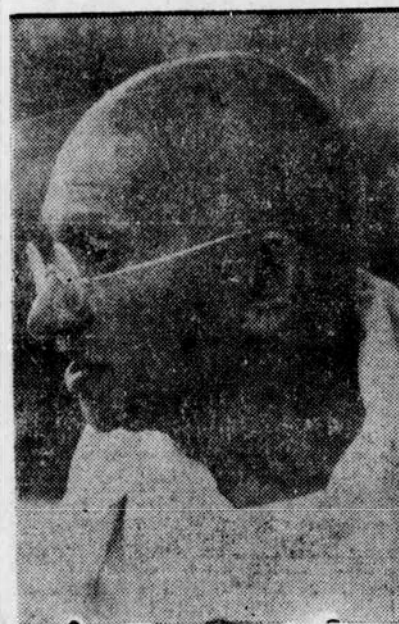
2. I was glad to have your letter, for to be as open with you as our previous relations justify, I have been profoundly depressed during recent months first by the policy that was adopted by the Congress in August, secondly because while that policy gave rise, as it was obvious it must, throughout the country to violence and crime (I say nothing of the risks to India from outside aggression) no word of condemnation for that violence and crime should have come from you, or from the Working Committee.

When you were first at Poona I knew that you were not receiving newspapers, and I accepted that as explaining your silence. When arrangements were made that you and the Working Committee should have such newspapers as you desired I felt certain that the detail those newspapers contained of what was happening would shock and distress you as much as it has us all, and that you would be anxious to make your condemnation of it categorical and widely known.

But that was not the case; and it has been a real disappointment to me all the more when I think of these murders, the burning alive of police officials, the wrecking of trains, the destruction of property, the misleading of these young students, which has done so much harm to India's good name, and to the Congress Party, and to the Congress Party.

And I have to add that the inference you draw from my letter is, I am afraid, not correct. I have re-read your letter in the light of your interpretation, but I have failed to find your meaning in it. I wanted to fast and should still want to, if nothing comes out of our correspondence and I have to be a helpless wit.

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Mahatma Gandhi

newspaper accounts you mention are well founded—I only wish they were not, for the story is a bad one.

Retracing Steps?

I well-know the immense weight of your great authority in the Congress movement, and with the party and those who follow its lead, and I wish I could feel, again speaking very frankly that a heavy responsibility did not rest on you. (And unhappily, while the initial responsibility rests with the leaders, others have to bear the consequences, whether as law-breakers, or as the results that that involves, or as the victims.)

3. But if I am right in reading your letter to mean that in the light of what has happened you wish to retrace your steps and dissociate yourself from the policy of last summer, you have only to let me know and I will at once consider the matter further.

And if I have failed to understand your object, you must not hesitate to let me know without delay in what respect I have done so and tell me what positive suggestion you wish to put to me.

You know me well enough after these many years to believe that I shall be only too concerned to read with the same close attention as ever any message which I receive from you, to give it the fullest weight, and to approach it with the deepest anxiety to understand your feeling and your motives. Yours Sincerely, LINLITHGOW.

GANDHIJI'S REPLY

JANUARY 19th, 1943.

(Personal).

Dear Lord Linlithgow.—I received your kind letter of 13th instant yesterday at 2-30 p.m. I had almost despaired of ever hearing from you. Please excuse my impatience.

Your letter gladdens me to find that I have not lost caste with you. My letter of 31st December was a growl against you. Yours is a counter-growl. It means that you maintain that you were right in arresting me and you were sorry for the omissions of which in your opinion, I was guilty.

The inference you draw from my letter is, I am afraid, not correct.

I have re-read your letter in the light of your interpretation, but I have failed to find your meaning in it. I wanted to fast and should still want to, if nothing comes out of our correspondence and I have to be a helpless wit.

(Continued on Page 5)

Eighth Army Still Advancing

Gen. Alexander Addresses Press Correspondents In Cairo

LONDON, Feb. 10.
Gen. Alexander, Commander-in-Chief of the Middle East, addressed war correspondents in Cairo to-day according to the National Broadcasting Corporation's correspondent broadcasting from Cairo. Gen. Alexander said that the Eighth Army was still advancing. "Our task of driving the Axis right out of the continent is not going to be easy but the dice are in our favour. When the Eighth Army has accomplished its task it will be ready for fresh operations and will be used."

PALESTINE RAIDED.
Today's Middle East Joint War Communique states:
"Palestine was bombed during the night of February 8-9 and fires were started. Two enemy bombers which attempted to raid Tripoli on the same night were shot down. One of our aircraft failed to return."
KAIROUAN BOMBED.
Allied headquarters in North Africa: Today's Communique says:
"The enemy airfield at Kairouan was bombed. None of our aircraft is missing."
ROME: Today's Italian Communique reports that "Numerous bombs were dropped on several towns in the Calabria-Ionian Littoral, on the Noto-Marine and on the town of Trapani."

NO MORE GERMANY NO MORE WAR

Churchill's Reply To Independent M.P.'s Question

LONDON, Feb. 10.
Mr. Churchill was asked in the Commons to-day whether in view of the fact that this is the fifth war for which Germany has been responsible in less than a century, the British Government had a plan to prevent her starting a sixth war.

Replying Mr. Churchill said: "This is certainly a fitting subject for thought (laughter) and will acquire more pressing importance when present investigation has been ended satisfactorily" (renewed laughter).

Independent, Capt. Cunningham Reid: Has not Germany by her shameful record forfeited her right to maintain peace and that being so has the Government considered the policy of "No more Germany—no more war?"
Mr. Churchill: I think these are very large topics to embark upon (renewed laughter).

ALERT IN LONDON

LONDON, Feb. 9.
An alert was sounded in the London area this afternoon. The alert lasted only a short time.

Br. Bombers Over Western Germany

The German radio says that British bombers attacked Western Germany last night.

R. A. F. Beaufighters destroyed three of four Junkers 88s intercepted over the Bay of Biscay yesterday afternoon, says the Air Ministry.

YUGOSLAV GUERRILLAS BUSY

The German radio stated that large scale battles between German, Italian and Croat troops and Yugoslav Guerrillas are raging in south western Croatia.

HOW FAR NAZI CLAIM IS TRUE

LONDON: Authoritative naval quarters stated that the German claim that German raiders are travelling via the Arctic may be true but they are sending only specially fitted merchant ships, which are a nuisance and not a serious challenge. Since the 'Bismarck' fiasco they have not sent heavy warships raiding.

EDEN'S SISTER DEAD
LONDON: The death is announced of Lady Warwick, only sister of the Foreign Secretary Mr. Eden.

Commerce Member Calls Conference To Consider Newspaper Situation

NEW DELHI, Feb. 10.
It is understood that Mr. N. R. Sarkar, Commerce Member, Government of India, has called a conference of representatives of newspapers, the Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society and the Indian Languages Newspapers' Association on February 15 to consider the position of newspaper and Allied problems. This conference will be held apart from the deputations of the Indian Languages Newspapers' Association on February 13 and the Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society on February 15.

Must Be Press-Advised

BOMBAY GOVT. ORDER ABOUT PUBLICATION OF GANDHI FAST NEWS AND COMMENTS

The Bombay Government have issued the following orders:—
Home Department.
Bombay Castle 10th Feb. 1943.
No. S. D. 111/228. Whereas the Government of Bombay is satisfied that for the purpose of securing the defence of British India, the public safety, the maintenance of public order and the efficient prosecution of the war, it is necessary to make the following order:

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-rule (1) of Rule 41 of the Defence of India Rules, the Government of Bombay is pleased to order that—
(1) all reports or pictorial representations regarding the fast which was commenced by Mr. M. K. Gandhi on or about February 10th 1943 and all reference to it whether direct or indirect shall before being printed or published by any printer, publisher or editor be submitted for scrutiny in the City of Bombay to the Special Press Adviser and elsewhere to the District Press Adviser; and
(2) no printer, publisher or editor shall print or publish any matter specified above unless it has been approved by the authority specified in clause (1) as suitable for publication.

2. The above order is addressed to printers, publishers and editors generally except those specified in the schedule to this order. Provided that nothing in this order applies to any matter which has been passed for publication by the Chief Press Adviser in India.

By order of the Governor of Bombay.
D. SYMINGTON.
Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Home Department.

Provided that nothing in the above order shall be deemed to apply in respect of any interview conversation or statement which occurred or was issued prior to August 9th 1942 or to any matter contained in a statement issued by the Central Government or by the Government of Bombay.

The above order is addressed to printers, publishers and editors generally.
By order of the Governor of Bombay.
D. SYMINGTON.
Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Home Department.

Pre-Scrutiny Order

Home Department.
Bombay Castle 10th, Feb. 1943.
No. S.D. 111/227. Whereas the Government of Bombay is satisfied that for the purpose of securing the defence of British India,

the Government of Bombay is pleased to order that—
(1) all reports or pictorial representations regarding the fast which was commenced by Mr. M. K. Gandhi on or about February 10th 1943 and all reference to it whether direct or indirect shall before being printed or published by any printer, publisher or editor be submitted for scrutiny in the City of Bombay to the Special Press Adviser and elsewhere to the District Press Adviser; and
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PARLE'S GLUCO BISCUITS

Announcement

Due to acute shortage of Wheat our famous GLUCO Biscuits are now made out of Barley. All other ingredients of these Biscuits remain the same. However, due to substitution of Barley in place of Wheat the taste of our GLUCO Biscuits will be slightly different although the Biscuits themselves will be more healthy and nourishing and light to digest. This is inserted in the interests of the public to avoid any possible misunderstanding in respect of quality.

Our other Specialities like MONACO and fancy biscuits will be made as and when wheat flour is available.

PARLE PRODUCTS MANUFACTURING CO., BOMBAY.

STOP PRESS

NEW YORK COTTON

To-day's Closing 19.74
Difference +0.3

OUR TABULATED ADLETS

1 Anna Per Word
Minimum Re. 1.

CHHOTA CHHOTI ADVERTISEMENTS

are inserted in these columns on cash payment only and are charged at the rate of ONE ANNA per word. Minimum charge is fixed at Re. 1 for 16 words. Numericals (up to 10 figures) and Abbreviations are to be counted as complete words.

SPECIAL REDUCTION in our scheduled rate of one anna per word will be allowed until further notice at the rate of 25 p.c. on all CASH PAYMENTS provided the same Adlet is to appear for three times or more in a week. The complete week to be calculated from Monday to Sunday.

STILL ONE MORE FACILITY is offered to our Adleters Tabulated Adlets that appear in the "BOMBAY CHRONICLE" if repeated the same evening in the "BOMBAY SENTINEL" will be charged for the "SENTINEL" at half anna per word without any further reduction whatsoever.

ADLETS OF PRIVATE NATURE are inserted with Box Numbers and in such cases the six words-Box No. () The Bombay Chronicle-must be paid for. The Management reserves the right to revise any Adlet or refuse publication without assigning any reason for doing so.

BLOCK LETTERED OR TYPEWRITTEN Adlets will ensure correct insertion. No responsibility for any mistake, oversight, misprint, etc., will be accepted by the Management. Replies to the Adlets should be sent for often to avoid heavy congestion at our office.

42. SITUATIONS VACANT

Wanted Experienced salesman having knowledge of hand bags, photo frames, toilet, fancy pens, etc. Bring applications personally between 4 and 6 p.m. Onwaru Trading Co., Tayabji Building 232, Carnac Road. (334)

Wanted: Matrics, Non Matrics for sub-offices establishments in Bombay Presidency. Apply the Western Provincial Cosmopolitan Syndicate, Delhi. (335)

Wanted for a proposed maternity home in some State in Rajputana—one experienced Hindu lady doctor, two midwives and two nurses. Pay according to qualification and experience. Apply at once to—Hanumanprasad Poddar, Ratnagarh (Bikaner). (339)

Estimators, Overseers, Sub-overseers, Tracers, Accounts Clerks, Store Clerks, and Works Munshis for Construction in U.P. and C.P. Free mess and accommodation provided. Apply with full particulars stating salary expected to Box No. 829, "Bombay Chronicle".

Wanted Mechanical Engineer capable to supervise preparing fabrication drawings of machinery under guidance of Designer. Also Mechanical Draftsmen. Apply with testimonials and salary expected to Box No. 331, "Bombay Chronicle".

Wanted immediately 2 Accountants for a limited firm in Bihar. Only B. Comms or G. D. As with experience should apply stating terms, to Box No. 614, "Bombay Chronicle".

Wanted a Hindu Lady Graduate as companion to girls in a respectable Hindu family. Apply Box No. 788, "Bombay Chronicle".

Wanted Electrical Engineer who can manufacture motors and take charge of a workshop in Calcutta. Only experienced should apply Box No. 823, "Bombay Chronicle".

Wanted 300 Candidates for Railway services as Guards, Station Masters, Signallers, Ticket Collectors etc. Period of training 4-5 months. Free quarter. Railway fare paid. Scholarship Rs. 105/- Apply with 1½ to Director, All-India Railway Commercial and Telegraph School, Daryaganj, Delhi. (720)

69. FLATS WANTED

Wanted a big Flat or Bungalow. Wanted by a Hindu family a big flat or a bungalow in good locality with at least four bedrooms with large verandas preferable. Apply: Box No. 842, "Bombay Chronicle".

81. GODOWNS WANTED

Wanted fairly large godown, solidly built, reasonably rat and vermin proof. Apply, stating rent and full particulars, Box No. 3304, "Bombay Chronicle".

327. AGENTS WANTED

Wanted reputed Agents for Foreign Washing Bar Soaps on good terms. Apply Box No. 833 "Bombay Chronicle".

Wanted Agents in every district to stock and push sale of Sukkur's Confectioneries, Biscuits, Toffees, etc. equal to world's best. Liberal Commission, Bonus, Shop allowance and all marketing facilities will be given. Kanunga & Sons, Post Box 121, Delhi. (838)

191. MEDICAL ADLETS

Wanted effective remedy for curing stammering in adult person. Please write Box No. 827, "Bombay Chronicle".

5500 Cured! Tonsils cured by large and Septic tonsils without operation. Booklet free. Packet Rs. 5/- Wanted stockists, Tonsil Laboratory, G. T. Madras. (341)

Public Notices

GOVERNMENT Announcements, Legal and Public Notifications are published in these columns at the following rates:—

	Per Column Inch, per insertion.
1st Insertion	Rs. 7-5-0
2nd Insertion	Rs. 5-5-0
3rd and Subsequent Insertion	Rs. 4-5-0

Notified advertisers are requested to send remittances in advance and state clearly whether they wish to insert their advertisements in these columns or in the Classified.

THE BANK OF BARODA, LIMITED
(Incorporated in Baroda)
Liability of members being limited.

NOTICE.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the SHARE TRANSFER BOOKS of the Bank of Baroda Ltd. will be CLOSED from the 26th February, 1943 to 12th March, 1943, both days inclusive.
W. G. GROUNDWATER,
General Manager.
Baroda, 8th February, 1943. (3351)

NOTICE TO JURYMEN.

GENTLEMEN of the COMMON JURY, summoned for the current Criminal Sessions are required to attend at the High Court on THURSDAY, the 11th February, 1943, at 2-45 P.M. (S.T.).
J. N. DUGGAN,
Sheriff of Bombay.
Bombay, 10th February, 1943. (3353)

NOTICE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that six Pucca Receipts Nos. 1956/438, 1957/438, 1958/438, 1959/438, 1960/438, 1961/438 dated 15-9-1942 for 75 shares Nos. 7162, 7223, 23209, 6306, 25587, 26903, 26906, 26862, 26705, 26808, 26859 issued to Messrs. Keshardev Shrinivas & Goculchand Dwarakadas, and One Pucca Receipt No. 1955/439 dated 15-9-42 for 1 share No. 6484 issued to Mr. Dwarakadas Morarka by the Century Spinning & Manufacturing Co., Ltd., have been lost or mislaid and the undersigned have applied to the Company to issue the certificates. Any person having any claim on the said receipts should notify to and lodge such claim with the Company at its registered Office, Queens Mansion, Prescott Road, Fort, Bombay within one month from this date after which no claim will be considered and the Company will proceed to deliver the said share certificates to the respective parties.
(Sd.) KESHARDEV SHRINIVAS,
GOCULCHAND DWARKADAS,
DWARKADAS MORARKA.
Bombay, 11th February, 1943. 3355

BOMBAY MUNICIPALITY

NOTICE

ELECTION OF A COUNCILLOR BY DELEGATES OF REGISTERED TRADE UNIONS

In consequence of the resignation of Mr. Abdul Razak Abdulla, J.P., a Councillor elected by Delegates of Registered Trade Unions, a casual vacancy of a Councillor has occurred under Section 9 of the City of Bombay Municipal Act, 1883, as amended, up-to-date. I therefore pursuant to the provisions of Sections 22(3) and 25 of the said Act, hereby fix TUESDAY, the 2nd March, 1943, for an election to fill the vacancy. Nomination papers will be issued on working days during office hours from TUESDAY, the 23rd February, 1943, to MONDAY, the 1st March, 1943, and on TUESDAY, the 2nd March, 1943, upto 4 p.m. (B.T.) at the Election Department, City Improvement Trust Building, Napier Road, Fort. In the event of the Election being contested the Poll will be held on TUESDAY, the 9th March, 1943.
M. D. BHAT,
Municipal Commissioner for the City of Bombay.
Municipal Commissioner's Office, Bombay, 9th February, 1943. (3344)

651 MISCELLANEOUS ADLETS

Anything for Sale or Purchase in Electrical, Hardware, Stationery, etc., write to Overseas Trading Co., Post Box 121, Lahore. Mutual benefit guaranteed. (709)

653 MISCELLANEOUS WANTED.

Wanted Type-writer any kind of Standard or Portable. Consult: Bhatia & Co., 236, Kalbadevi Road, Bombay. Tel. 37792. (775)

Wanted a gun and a Revolver essentially perfect condition. Reasonable price. Offers to Box 713A, "Bombay Chronicle".

652 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

For Sale—Coal Tar, Cresote, Phenyle, Turpentine and Turkey-Red-Oil, Eye-droppers (Ink-fillers) etc., Rates very moderate. P. Cool & Co., Lucknow. (752)

DEBT-RECOVERY

For Recovery of your Outstation Claims & Debts, write to Post Box 526, Bombay, Telephone No. 22848. (341)

Public Notices

HABIB BANK LIMITED

NOTICE

The First Ordinary General Meeting of the Bank will be held at the Registered Office, at Hanuman Building, Tamba Kanta, Bombay, on Saturday, 13th February, 1943, at 4-30 P.M. (S.T.)

An Extra-ordinary General Meeting of the Bank will also be held at the above place soon after the holding of the Ordinary General Meeting to pass a Resolution for increase of the capital of the Bank from Rs. 50,00,000/- to Rs. 2,00,00,000/-

By Order of the Board of Directors
D. A. BIJOOR
Secretary. (3359)

HIND CYCLES LIMITED

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the members of the above Company that the EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the above Company convened by the Notice dated the 2nd instant to be held on Friday, the 19th February, 1943 at 4 p.m. (S.T.) is hereby CANCELLED.

By Order of the Board.
BIRLA BROTHERS LTD.
(Bombay Branch)
Managing Agents.
Bombay, 10th February, 1943. (3352)

Legal Notices

NOTICE

RETIREMENT FROM PARTNERSHIP.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that our client, Mr. JAFFERALLI GULAMHUSSEIN PADAMSEE has on and from Posh Vad 30th, S. Y. 1999, i.e., 4th February, 1943, retired from the partnership heretofore subsisting between him and HUSSEINBHAI CHHAGANBHAI PADAMSEE, carrying on business of Glassware Merchants at 141, Chakia Street also called Sheriff Dewji Street, Bombay, under the firm name and style of SALEMAHOMED PADAMSEE & CO., and that our client will not be responsible for the debts and liabilities, if any, of the said partnership business from and after the said date. Dated this 9th day of February, 1943.

CAPTAIN & VAIDYA,
Attorneys for Mr. Jafferalli Gulamhussein Padamsee. 3343

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that NADIRSHAW EDULJI BAMBADIR and his wife MEHERBAI NADIRSHAW BAMBADIR, both of Bombay Parsi inhabitants, have contracted for the absolute sale to our client of the undermentioned property. All persons, therefore, having, or claiming any right, title, or interest in or to the said property or any part thereof, whether by way of inheritance, bequest, trust, possession, gift, sale, mortgage, charge, lien, lease or otherwise, are hereby required to make such claims known in writing to the undersigned at their Office, No. 113, Esplanade Road, Fort, Bombay, within 14 days from this date, otherwise the sale will be completed without reference to any such claims, and all such claims, if any, will be considered as waived.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

ALL that piece of land, containing an area of One thousand two hundred and eleven (1,211) square yards or thereabouts situate on and being Plot No. 600 of the Dadar Matunga Estate of the Corporation in the City and Island and Sub-registration District of Bombay bounded, on the North East by Plot No. 599 of the said Estate agreed to be leased to Bai Gulbanu K. Gazdar, on the South-East by Forty Feet Jamed Jamshed Road, on the South-West by Plot No. 603 of the said Estate leased to M. D. Wadia and on the North-West by Plot No. 601B of the said Estate agreed to be leased to Keshavlal Liladhar and another which piece of land forms portion of New Survey No. 872 and bears Cadastral Survey No. 70110 Matunga Division together with the buildings thereon the main building consisting of a ground floor and two upper floors with a staircase room and the two out-buildings each consisting of a ground floor only which said premises are now in the occupation of the Lessees or their under tenants and are assessed by the Assessor and Collector of Municipal Rates and Taxes under 16 (F) Ward No. 7031(12) Street No. 66-66A.

Dated this 10th day of February, 1943.

ARDESHIR HORMUSJI
DINSHAW & CO.,
Purchasers' Attorneys. (3349)

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Mr. ABDUL KARIM ABDUL LAHAI has contracted to sell to our client the undermentioned property. Any person having any claim or claims or interest in or to the said property by way of sale, mortgage, trust, lien, possession, gift, inheritance, lease, residence, use, maintenance, charge or otherwise howsoever is hereby required to make the same known in writing to the undersigned at their Office at 31, Nanabhai Lane, Fort, Bombay, within 14 days from the date hereof, otherwise the sale will be completed without any regard to any such claim or claims and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO:

All that piece or parcel of land or ground with the message, tenement or dwelling house standing thereon situate lying and being in the City of Bombay within the Fort of Bombay in the Registration Sub-District of Bombay, containing by admeasurement a total area of 354.84 square yards or thereabout and registered in the Books of the Collector of Land Revenue under Nos. 377-377, 377, New No. A 5389, Old Survey No. 610 and New Survey No. 219334 and New Survey No. 193238 and bearing Cadastral Survey No. 372 Fort Division of which part being a piece of land admeasuring 33.63 Square Yards or thereabouts and registered under New No. A 5359, New Survey No. 219334 and Cadastral No. 372 Fort Division is of quit and ground rent tenure and the remainder of freehold tenure which said land is bounded as follows:—That is to say, on or towards the East by the Footpath along Homji Street, on or towards the West by a Sweeper's passage and beyond that by the property of the Grahams Properties Company Limited or towards the South by a Sweeper's passage and beyond that by the property of Deokaran Nanji and on or towards the North by the property of His Highness the Aga Khan and which said premises are assessed by the Collector of Municipal Rates and Taxes under "A" Ward No. 1575(1) and Old Street Nos. 8-10 and New Street No. 74. Dated this 9th day of February, 1943.

MOTICHAND & DEVIDAS,
Purchasers' Attorneys. (3350)

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that SEITH ABDUL TYEB ESMAILJI MASKATI, of Bombay Bohra Mahomedan Inhabitant has contracted to sell the undermentioned property to our clients.

All persons having any claim against or to the said property by way of inheritance, mortgage, sale, gift, lease, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to make the same known in writing to the undersigned at their Office at Hamam House, Hamam Street, Fort, Bombay, within 14 days from the date hereof, otherwise the sale will be completed without reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.

THE SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY ABOVE REFERRED TO. All that piece or parcel of Leasehold land or ground, admeasuring 1,204 Square Yards or thereabouts being Plot No. 8 being a portion of the land and premises situate at Forjett Street Tardeo in the Registration Sub-District of Bombay, in the Island of Bombay, registered along with other land in the books of the Collector of Land Revenue under Old No. 17 New No. 89 Pension and Tax and New Survey No. Part of 7080 (Incorrectly described as bearing New Survey No. 1275 in the previous title deeds) and bounded as follows: That is to say, on or towards the East by the Forjett Street, on or towards the West by Plot No. 5, on or towards the North by the property of Hamabai J. Mehta and on or towards the South by the proposed private Road and assessed by the Assessor and Collector of Municipal Rates and Taxes under D. Ward No. 3427 (4) Street No. 4 and D. Ward No. 3427 (5) Street No. 2 and bearing Cadastral Survey No. 3/661 of the Malabar and Cumballa Hill Division. Dated this 10th day of February, 1943.

AMIN DESAI & NANAVATI,
Purchasers' Attorneys. (3348)

Auction Sales

MENESSE & CO.

AUCTION SALE OF 655 BALES BURHANPUR CAMBODIA COTTON.

Messrs. MENESSE & CO. will sell by public auction on THURSDAY 11th February, 1943, at 2-30 p.m. (S.T.) at Cotton Depot, Sewree, near the Cotton Exchange Building by order of the Insurance Offices concerned the above-mentioned cotton slightly damaged by fire and water salvaged from the fire that occurred on the 28th January, 1943 to the cotton of Messrs. Universal Cotton Trading Co.

The above will be sold in different lots.

WELLINGTON THEATRE

Thobi Talao,
Opposite Metro Cinema.

TO-NIGHT

The Bombay
Repertory Coy.

IN
"NIGHT MUST FALL"

By EMLYN WILLIAMS

Produced by
GODFREY HARRISON

(Associated Theatre Seasons Ltd.)

with
Marjorie Forrest

Edna Mosley

Mary Hill

Joan Martin

Jean Moir

Michael Rose

Reginald Hanson

and
Godfrey Harrison

as "Danny"

Wednesday, Feb. 10th to

Wednesday, Feb. 17th

at 6-30 P.M.

except

Friday 12th and Sat. 13th,

when performances will start at

9-30 p.m.

not 9 p.m. as advertised elsewhere.

Entire Proceeds for amenities

funds for Indian and British

Troops.

Special performance for services

personnel and friends 6-30 p.m.

Feb. 9th, Tuesday, at service

rates.

Advance Booking Victory Cafe

No. 30158 when closed at theatre

20221

Coming Feb. 21st, Radio Variety,

With old favourite and new

speciality turns, including "Zora"

the International Danseuse.

In preparation Oscar Wilde's

"Importance of Being Earnest"

produced by Michael Rose. (North-

ampton Repertory Theatre Ltd.,

etc., etc.)

REGAL

at 4, 6-30

and 9-30 p.m.

TO-DAY—LAST DAY

"Palm Beach

Story"

CLAUDETTE COLBERT

FROM TO-MORROW:

ABBOTT &

COSTELLO

"Who Done It?"

Their latest Laugh Hit

YOUTH'S YOUTHFUL TALE!



PRABHAT'S

Ten O'clock

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Post Box 322

Telegrams: "CHRONICLE"
Registered No. B 1035

The Bombay Chronicle

A CHARGE REPUDIATED

We publish elsewhere the communiqué issued by the Government of India regarding Gandhi's fast, the text of correspondence between him and the Viceroy which has also been released by them and the two Orders under Rule 41 of the Defence of India Rules served on newspapers by the Government of Bombay. As we cannot think of submitting our comments on any matter for approval by the Special Press Adviser, we refrain from making any comments on the fast so long as the relevant Order stands or is not satisfactorily modified. As regards the contents of the communiqué issued by the Government of India and the text of the correspondence between Gandhi and the Viceroy, what has been Gandhi's demand? It is nothing more than an opportunity to explain the Congress attitude and to meet the charges levelled against it. It may be remembered that before being arrested Gandhi had decided to seek an interview with the Viceroy for this purpose. Even after the arrest he wrote to the Viceroy on 14th August, 1942, and to the Secretary of State in the following September, presumably asking for an opportunity in some form or other to explain the Congress position. In his letter to the Viceroy, dated 14th December, 1942, he renewed his request. He said: "I am convinced of my error or errors and I shall make ample amends. You can send for me or send someone who knows your mind and can carry conviction. There are many other ways in which you may act. But in his reply the Viceroy only repeated the charges against Congress and Gandhi, who pointed that the charges were all unproved and unprovable and made the following specific suggestions: (1) "If you want me to act solely on behalf of the Congress you should put me among the Congress Working Committee members. But Gandhi was not allowed any interview or put among members of the Congress Working Committee. All right-thinking men will agree that it is gross injustice to make grave allegations against Gandhi and other Congress leaders and

yet to deny them an opportunity to repudiate the charges.

Give Them The

Opportunity

Referring to Gandhi's complaint that the charges against him and Congress were not proved by evidence, the Viceroy wrote in his last published letter that there was a lot of incriminating evidence but added: "If we do not act on all this information or make it publicly known it is because the time is not yet ripe; but you may rest assured that the charges against the Congress will have to be met sooner or later and it will then be for you and your colleagues to clear yourselves before the world if you can." Gandhi and Congress are prepared to face the charges sooner than later if Government publish the evidence and also allow the accused to speak. It may then be for the accusers to clear themselves before the world. In the name of justice and fair play we demand that Government should either withdraw the charges against Gandhi and the Congress or give them facility to defend themselves.

Confirmed Believer

In Non-Violence

Repudiating the charge that he has compromised his own gospel of non-violence, Gandhi says in his second letter to the Viceroy. "This, however, I can say from the house-top that I am as confirmed a believer in non-violence as I have ever been." He deprecates the happenings which have taken place since 9th August last. But he holds Government's repression to be most responsible for them. Regarding particular events he says: "I could not express any opinion on events which I cannot influence or control and of which I have but a one-sided account." The one man in the world to stop or minimize the repression in the country is Gandhi. But he can do so only if he is a free man. Indeed, from every point of view one feels that the best way out of the present political deadlock is to release Gandhi and all the Congress leaders and renew the negotiations that repression interrupted.

The Cat Out Of The Bag

It will be recalled that even so recently as a fortnight ago Mr. D. S. Senanayake, the Ceylon Minister for Agriculture and Labour and Leader of the House, denied openly in the Council of State that the Ceylon Government had instructed Sir Baron Jayatilaka, Agent of that Government in this country, to recruit labour from India. Reports emanating from New Delhi had repeatedly stated that the Indian press last month that Sir Baron was secretly negotiating with the Government of India for the despatch of 20,000 Indian labourers to work on the rubber and other plantations in Ceylon. Subsequently, it was even given out that the Standing Committee on Emigration had considered the request of Sir Baron Jayatilaka, but had turned it down on the ground that no assurance had been given by the Ceylon Government that the existing civil disabilities imposed on Indians in the Island would be done away with. But, it would appear that Sir Baron, under the influence of the unsympathetic attitude of the Standing Emigration Committee, has been wailing, behind the scenes, the higher official circles at New Delhi and one still hears of secret confabulations going on between him and these circles.

The real reason for Sir Baron's strange optimism persistence in his secret negotiation is now seen in the news just made public that the Governor of Ceylon has been actively engaged for the last two months, in pressing upon the Governor-General of India to agree to the despatch of Indian labourers to Ceylon. They are badly needed on the rubber and other plantations of that Island. The text of the telegram he had sent to the Governor-General of India on 8th December, 1942, has been now made available to the Council of State, of Ceylon. The procedure adopted by the Governor of Ceylon appears to us to be an extraordinary one. He had apparently kept his own Ministers, as well as the Council of State, totally in the dark for full two months about a matter which concerned them intimately and he has, thus, been instrumental in creating unnecessary misunder-

standings in the public mind both in our own Island and in India. One utterly fails to understand the need for such secrecy as well as for overriding the authority of his own Ministers as well as Council of State. The episode well reveals the make-believe character of the present constitution. It also reveals Sir Baron Jayatilaka in a light in which few Ministers would like to shine.

But there is another aspect of the episode. The Ceylon Governor's telegram to the Governor-General of India tries to make out a case for the despatch of Indian labourers which is far from convincing. It says that the labourers are urgently needed to increase the rubber, tea and food production in the Island during the war period. But his own Council of State recently adopted a resolution declaring emphatically that as the importation of Indian labourers would materially add to the difficulties of Ceylon in regard to food supply, no Indian labour should be imported. The game of those behind the request for Indian labour thus becomes obvious. Once the request for Indian labour is granted the Ceylon Government would ask for additional food supplies from India to feed these labourers and India could not well refuse to send out such supplies in the interests of her nationals! The game is, too, transparent not to be seen through. It will be noticed that the Governor of Ceylon in his telegram holds out no hope that the existing civil disabilities against Indians resident in the Island would be removed. The same will be considered after the war ends, says the Governor. It is to be sincerely hoped that the Government of India will not be fooled by such a device. The Governor of Ceylon as well as his Government must be told firmly that unless and until they remove the disabilities, not one labourer will be sent out from India. The offer of the same pay and conditions of employment as are at present enjoyed by Indian labourers in Ceylon and their repatriation to India at the end of the war, are not worth the least consideration when the primary right of Indians resident in the Island to lead a self-respecting existence is denied to them.

Frankly Speaking

India's War Effort

Replying to an address presented to him by the taluqdars of Oudh Sir Maurice Hallett, Governor of the United Provinces, is reported to have exhorted them and through them the people of the provinces to avoid at all costs the feeling of complacency. "We can be confident and hopeful," he added, "but our efforts must not relax, rather they must increase a hundred fold." One wonders if the pertinent observations made by Sir Moropant Joshi, one time acting Governor of the Central Provinces, and at present the leader of the C.P. Provincial War Front, earlier in the week at a meeting presided over by the Governor of his province, have come to the notice of Sir Maurice. They have not, he would do well to call for report of Sir Moropant's speech and ponder over it, for then he would see in whose minds really the "complacency" he wishes to be avoided exists, whether in the minds of the people of his province or of the officialdom headed by himself.

Sir Moropant Joshi's Suggestion

Sir Moropant is stated to have remarked that "questions relating to the present policy and future intentions of the British Government were frequently asked if workers of the War Front addressed public meetings, and there was even organised opposition to the speakers." The term "national independence" appealed to the people greatly," Sir Moropant added: "You can't create sentiment where none exists," and he concluded that, "if the political situation could be satisfactorily settled without delay, there was not the slightest doubt that the war effort would increase fiftyfold or even hundred fold almost immediately." In Maurice Hallett's ears such observations are likely to sound most unpleasant, but they embody the truth, if he cares to know it. But Sir Maurice, like the Churchills, Amerys and Lillithgows of the British hierarchy, now wielding the destinies of India, appears firmly to believe that loyalty to the existing order in India as well as enthusiasm for the war effort, are artificially generated. Sir Maurice and others of his ilk should disabuse their minds of such a faith if they would really like the popular enthusiasm for war effort by the country to increase in the manner all who wish success to the Allied cause desire. They must also realize that only a free people or a people definitely assured of their freedom from all thralldom in the near future can put forth such effort.

ASSEMBLY SESSION OPENS

Central M.L.A.s Receive News Of Mahatma's Fast "With Grave Concern"

NEW DELHI, Feb. 10. The Central Assembly began its Budget Session to-day. The news of Mahatma Gandhi's fast became known just about the time the House was assembling and members received it with grave and for the most part silent concern.

FATE OF ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS

The Hon. Mr. N. R. Sarkar, Commerce Member to the Government of India having agreed in the Central Assembly to allow two days full dress debate on the food situation, standard cloth (fuel and other necessities of life, all adjournment motions relating to these were withdrawn.

The President disallowed Sardar Sant Singh's adjournment motion to discuss the Government's policy in selling silver lying in England at prices much lower than prevailing in the Indian markets in view of the Finance Member's statement.

Sir Jeremy Raisman, Finance Member, said that the matter was not urgent as it was raised by Mr. K. C. Neogy during the last session and he (the Finance Member) gave a detailed reply regarding the Government's policy.

Mr. Balraj Bajoria's adjournment motion regarding shortage of small coins was lost by 32 against 26 votes.

Non-official members who took their seats to-day were Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (in place of Mr. Santanami) and Mr. B. L. Gray (in place of Mr. Ramay Scott). References were made to the death of Sir Mohammed Yakub and Mr. Ramay Scott.

PHILLIPS IN GALLERY
Mr. William Phillips, President Roosevelt's personal envoy, was present this morning in the distinguished visitors' gallery. Dr. Lao of the Chinese Commissioner's office was also present.

GRADY MISSION REPORT
"The Government of the United States has informed the Government of India that in the present conditions it is possible to implement as a whole the programme recommended by the Grady Mis-

Bomb Explosion At Cawnpore Station

3 KILLED AND 7 INJURED: ASBESTOS ROOFING CARRIED AWAY

(Through A. P. And U. P.)
CAWNPORE, February 10.

Two hawkers and one passenger were killed and seven third class passengers, coolies and hawkers were injured as a result of a bomb explosion yesterday at the Central Station, Cawnpore.

STATION ROOF GIVES WAY

The District Magistrate, Cawnpore, has issued the following press note to-day:—"At 9-40 P. M. yesterday a bomb exploded on platform No. 1 at Cawnpore Central Station under the stairs to the overbridge. Two hawkers sitting on the platform and a passenger were killed, seven third class passengers, coolies and hawkers standing on the platform were injured and were taken to hospital. A third class coach of the No. 1 Up Mail was standing opposite the spot where the explosion occurred and it was slightly damaged by splinters. The asbestos roof of the station came away in some places and two stairs of the staircase were damaged. The train was detained while enquiries were made."

SENTENCES ON JUVENILES REDUCED

NAGPUR: In the Yashwantrao Chavan case in which 40 persons were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment ranging from 2 to 7 years rigorous imprisonment Mr. Justice Pollock acquitted two accused and reduced the sentence of two others from two years to three months.

RELEASED M.L.A. DEAD

LUCKNOW, Feb. 10. Prof. Chandrabha Johari, M.L.A. (Central), a security prisoner who was recently released unconditionally on medical grounds expired this morning at the residence of his brother.—United Press.

BOMB THROWN AT CHOWKI

AHMEDABAD: A bomb was thrown this morning at the Khadai Police Chowki. It was taken possession of by the police before it exploded. The police immediately raided and searched a nearby house and arrested four persons.

ARRESTED FOR BURNING HATS

POONA:—One person was taken into custody on a charge of causing disturbance and burning hats in the Sevassadan Chowki. A few shops in the city were closed. It is said, in observance of the six-month day of Congress leaders' arrests.

MIRAJ:—Siddhagunda Patil was arrested at Jaysingpur by the Kolhapur State Police. Nagu Salkar and Damodar Gore were taken to the police station for interrogation.

SCHOOL SET ON FIRE

KOLHAPUR:—A primary school at Akkavli was set on fire. One person was sentenced to 5 months' R.I. and to pay a fine of Rs. 100 in default to undergo 24 months' R.I. for taking out a 'morcha' to the Resident's office.

M. D. Shinde, Municipal president, has been released on a week's parole to see his ailing daughter at Miraj.

BOMB EXPLOSION

KOLHAPUR: A bomb exploded on Tuesday mid-night at the Head Office Building of the Kolhapur L.L.A. Panchayat. No damage was caused.

SABOTAGE CASE TRANSFERRED

SATARA: The prosecution launched against 26 persons, of

whom Mr. H. M. Mody Supply dealer, replying to a question by Mr. K. C. Neogy during question hour, was asked whether the Government of India could not publish or comment upon the recommendations which it contained.

"DEFEATIST" SUMMARY?
Asked whether it was a fact that American Press correspondents present at the Supply Member's Press Conference disputed the accuracy of the summary of the preliminary report put forward by the Hon. Member and described his comments on the Mission's recommendations as "defeatist," Sir H. M. Mody replied:—"I am sorry I cannot enter into a controversy about the views attributed to American Press correspondents. But if anybody thinks that the summary was inaccurate, all I can say is that it is inaccurate (laughter)."

CONGRESS VIEW AT PACIFIC CONFERENCE

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. O. K. Caroe, asked to give information about the proceedings of the Pacific Relations Conference recently held in London, stating that the proceedings were private and that without the agreement of the Secretary-General it would not be possible to divulge their substance.

Quoting the impressions of a friend of Sir H. M. Mody, Mr. Caroe said:—"Although the Congress Party was not represented at the conference, the Hon. Member's views were not far from those of the Government. Mr. Lalchand Navaraj asked the Foreign Secretary whether the Government of India had any objection to the Japanese occupying Japan, Mr. Caroe, however, laid on the table the fact that the Japanese had occupied China."

Question was also asked about the behaviour of the railway staff during the days of the great rush of evacuation as a result of the Japanese attack on Calcutta. Sir Edward Benthall replied that two assistant booking clerks were being punished on a charge of receiving bribes. Sir Edward revealed that upwards of 100 persons had been carried from Calcutta by the railway, most of the free of charge during the evacuation resulting from Japanese bombing.

whom 16 are said to be absconding, for an act of sabotage, has been transferred from the court of the Resident Magistrate at Karad to the court of the Sessions Judge in his capacity as Special Judge for the Satara District.

KHADI WORKER ARRESTED

Dhawal Prasad Sahu, prominent worker of the Bihar branch of the All-India Spinners Association, who was in connection with Khadi work was arrested under D.I.R.

SEARCHES AND ARRESTS AT BARDOLI
SURAT: The houses of Mr. Hariprasad and Mr. Manibhai were searched says a report from Bardoli. Mr. Dahyabhai Nathabhai of the village of Bhamajay was arrested under D.I.R. Mr. Kantilal Chundilal of Kaddo has been ordered to present himself before the Court of the First Class Magistrate at Bardoli.

According to a report theft of gold, silver and cash amounting to about Rs. 10,000 was committed in the house of Sachora Mahipal of Sidhpur. It is said that some stolen property has been recovered from the house of a lady living nearby and she, along with some others, has been arrested.

Manilal Chandulal Sheth of Satpura who was arrested in connection with a bomb explosion has been released. Mr. Katrak has resigned the membership of the Law Committee of the Surat Municipality. The houses of several persons belonging to Gopipura, Chhiprad Zampa Bazar and Zhadod were searched and several maunds of wheat seized. The house of Dr. Taiyabhai was searched and a tin of kerosene was seized.

Five Fined For Five Years And Three To Three Years

DIARWAR: Judgment was delivered to-day by Mr. B. K. Dalvi, District and Sessions Judge, in the first case under the Special Courts Ordinance in the district. The case related to the attack on Byadri railway station on September 16.

Eight out of the fourteen accused were convicted; five were sentenced to five years' rigorous imprisonment and fine of Rs. 500 each in default; one year and three to three years. Six were acquitted.

SURAT ARRESTS

SURAT: Three persons were arrested for taking out a procession in the city in contravention of prohibitory orders.

ARRESTED FOR HARTAL

KARACHI: For refusing to open his shop in Bori Bazar before the 'leaders' arrest day, Mithaldas Hansraj was arrested under the Defence of India Rules. Two bawalas were arrested at Nawabshah for closing their shops yesterday.

Two Women Arrested At Vile Parle

(From Our Correspondent)
VILE PARLE, Feb. 10. A procession with black flags was taken out in Vile Parle on 9th instant to observe "Hemu Kalash Day". Mrs. Nirmalaben Barot and Mrs. Prabhaben Kanadia were arrested by the Police for taking a leading part in the procession. A trial was observed at Vile Parle.

Indian Merchants' Chamber Adjourns

BOMBAY Wednesday. The meeting of the Committee of the Indian Merchants' Chamber Bombay, held to-day was adjourned without transacting any business as a mark of their deep concern at the three weeks' fast which Mahatma Gandhi has begun to-day.

NAZIMUDDIN'S HOPES

CALCUTTA: Interviewed on Mahatma Gandhi's fast, Sir Nazimuddin, Member of the Working Committee of the All-India Muslim League and leader of the opposition in the Bengal Legislative Assembly, said:—"I am glad that Mr. Gandhi has not undertaken a fast unto death. I hope that this ordeal to which he is subjecting himself will help him to bring about a settlement of the 'Hindu-Muslim problem.'"

SHOPS AND MARKETS CLOSED

AHMEDABAD: The news of the intention of Mahatma Gandhi to go on fast spread in the city. Shops and markets were immediately closed. Stones were thrown on those shops which remained open.

SAMBAMURTI ON TASK BEFORE YOUTH

BOMBAY, Wednesday. Addressing the Freedom group at the Balastry this evening, Mr. Sambamurti, Ex-speaker of the Madras Assembly said:—"It is India that will have to go on fast spread in the city. The Freedom group must work from day to day. The young men and women must work for a free India and a world federation of free people. That is the transformation of a mad and wild world into a sane and a subject nation. There could be no freedom for the world if India continued to be in bondage." Mr. B. F. Bharucha presided.

FOOD CRISIS

Latthe On How To End It

(From Our Correspondent)
BELGAUM

"Before we can think of the remedies for the present scarcity as well as high prices of food grains and other necessities of life and the acute distress caused by them, we should try to have a clear idea of the conditions and the causes which have produced them. Only a few months back, Government spokesmen were assuring the public that their grow more food campaign was very successful and that there was a considerable increase in the area under food grains cultivation. The harvesting season has not yet been old by many weeks. A major part of the year's harvest should be provided for by this year's harvests, is still to run, in spite of this, foodstuffs have become so scarce and what is available is prohibitively high-priced, the prospects of the year before us are indeed very sad and dangerous. The situation staring us in the face is bound to affect the morale of the people, and unless Government intend to look on with indifference while this situation is adding enormously to the discontent surging in the minds of the people, the authorities must cease to tinker with the problem and must adopt adequate measures to relieve the distress being caused by scarcity and high prices," said Mr. A. E. Latthe, ex-Finance Minister to the Bombay Government, when I asked him to give me his views on the economic situation in the country.

SKY-ROCKETING PRICES

Continuing he said: "Thinking to the impossibility of importing rice from Burma, there would be difficulties in the large rice-fed areas in our country was as plain as anything even before the last rainy season. Not only was nothing done to meet this, but we are being coolly told that exports had to be allowed to Ceylon and the Middle East, which depend on India for their rice, just as large parts of India herself did not depend on the supply of rice, which was obviously short. The export of other foodstuffs, we are told, is not much. Why then this scarcity, and why this more than a hundred per cent rise in prices? Even the controlled rates are as high as this, apart from the prices that have to be paid in the Black Markets. One must be thankful to Government for telling the country that wheat is going to come from outside within the next few months. Assuming that the hopes of wheat imports are going to be realised, the distress consequent on excessively high prices remains and what is still more important, there is no relief whatever the vast areas living on rice (Jwar, Bajra, etc.)."

GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE

What measures should the Government, in your opinion, adopt to relieve the situation? I asked. Mr. Latthe did not think that in the present political situation of India, the present Government would adopt a policy suitable to the needs of India herself. He said: "From the fact that they have no policy of their own and have to carry out policies dictated to them they have no instance failed to adopt measures which have been followed by other Governments in Britain to avoid inflation. Why is not the price in India as high as in America as well as in Britain? There is another category of Government's failure which is irreparable and that is the loss of confidence as it is today. The tendency to withhold food stuffs from the market and wait upon the uncertain future is due to the general impression that the policy of Government is principally based upon their own needs as distinguished from the needs of the people. I will give you one small instance to illustrate this. A few weeks ago the authorities obtained Jwar at 5 annas a rupee for the local Jwar, while even in the fair price shop opened under their auspices in Belgaum the rate was one full seer."

I know that some of the causes of the present situation we are considering are unavoidable and the blame has to be borne by home. The war is the most important among them. But I feel certain that even if Government speak through an Indian like Mr. Sarkar, the present attempt to solve the difficulties must be superficial and therefore ineffective in alleviating widespread distress and preparing the people to co-operate with the authorities in measures necessary partly for augmenting supplies for domestic consumption and partly to meet the needs of the present efforts to meet the situation as it is and what is worse effect. Not only each Province pursues a policy of its own, but hundreds of our States are round about Belgaum and within a mile or two, we have three States all small enough to restrict the movement of food supplies. Not only Provinces but even big States are in a state of economic chaos, while the States do, is all this a planned attempt to relieve the situation?

PROFITING FROM NEEDS

Sugar prices have recently been allowed to rise. The Government has allowed sugar manufacturers to make huge profits even without that rise. These profits are so attractive that at the rate at which the sugar-factories are springing up in the middle and small States, the Government estimate that there may be 500 factories for sugar-manufacture—50 being the number of our States—would not be an exaggeration. River-water is being pumped up for cane-grinding. Why not use the pump to grow more food crops as far as it goes. The control of prices as far as it goes, has been a very little benefit to the consumers. Without adequate supplies, control of prices means nothing useful. The supply should not only be adequate but must be free to move and must be readily available. I know very well that the grower is as an organised as the consumer and this absence of organisation gives scope to exploitation by middlemen. The responsibility for this is as much on the Government as on our people. I say this because the initiative and guidance for organisation must come in a country like ours from the Government themselves."

WANTED: NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

"I feel doubtful," concluded Mr. Latthe, "if the depth of the distress caused to the people by the present economic conditions is clearly realised. I feel that the absence of the willing and enthusiastic co-operation of the people in general efforts now being made will be inadequate to bring about the desired end. To arouse confidence and enlist wholehearted co-operation from the public by solving the political deadlock, I feel that the Government must first of all make an effort for alleviating the sufferings of the masses. The Government must be able to command assured support for the most drastic measures required to bring about a world federation of free people. That is the transformation of a mad and wild world into a sane and a subject nation. There could be no freedom for the world if India continued to be in bondage." Mr. B. F. Bharucha presided.

TETE A TETE

WITHOUT COMMENT—

LONDON, Feb. 9.

Removal of the "stigma on the Empire press" was urged by Mr. L. W. Matters at the annual meeting of the Empire Press Union in London on Tuesday. Mr. Matters referred to the imposition of censorship on opinion, comment and criticism adding "it is solely the press of the overseas empire which is subject to that censorship."

—Reuter.

Mrs. Patricia Strauss describes Sir Stafford Cripps as "English Gandhi."

We hope, following this train of thought, she does not go on to describe Mr. Churchill as "English Jawaharlal Nehru."

Among other things, Mrs. Strauss reveals in her book that when Sir Stafford unofficially visited India he travelled second class and borrowed his bedding from Pandit Nehru.

Adversity, indeed, makes strange bedfellows!

By the way, Sir Stafford Cripps seems always to be borrowing things. When he re-visited India, this time officially, he borrowed Mr. Churchill's imperialist mentality.

We are further told that Cripps likes pranks humour.

Don't we know that already the "frankish humour" of the Cripps negotiations? The joke was on India!

Our London correspondent has cabled to us the views expressed by Mr. C. Rajagopalachari in Madras which were cabled to the London "Times" by its Delhi correspondent.

It is a small world, isn't it?

Standard cloth, it has been officially stated, will be available in April.

On the First of April?

Two special trains were engaged to transfer prisoners from Hindalgar Central Prison to Dharwar Sub-Jail.

Another case of "Travel only when you must!"

According to Reuters' "Listening Post," Germans are beginning to be "worried about Hitler's health."

It is possible that they are worried about his good health?

TO-DAY'S PRIZE POWERS (Perpetrated By The Junior Colleague)

(1) Ministership will henceforth be hereditary—at least in the Punjab!

(2) Franco's Government has denied the news of a Nazi ultimatum. They insist it was only an invitation.

(3) Communal kitchens have been started in Germany where ultimately Hitler's goose will be cooked.

(4) Mr. Jannadas Mehta has applied for a passport to proceed to Turkey to find out how he will be received in that country but he has declined to act as a special correspondent of his friend, M. N. Roy's "Independent India" during this trip.

REDS TAKE BYELGOROD

MOSCOW, Feb. 10.

Yesterday's Soviet communiqué said: "Our troops, as a result of stubborn fighting, occupied the town and large railway junction Byelgorod and the town of Shkolyovo."

South of Kursk our troops captured the district centre and railway station of Solnevo, the district centre of Medvedskaya and several inhabited localities.

South of Kursk our troops captured the district centre and large railway station of Ponyri. In other sectors of the front our troops continued offensive engagements in the same directions as before.

SOVIET GETS MORE MEN READY

Within a fortnight the Russian Command will have another one million five hundred thousand specially trained troops ready to send into the offensive.

Huge Italian Casualties

The Rome radio says: Italy lost 27,000 men "missing", and 10,265 wounded in Russia last month. The number of dead was not definitely ascertained.

Economics is inextricably bound up with two things: the constitutional position of its country and the willingness of the individual in the State to follow the plan made by the State. Without these two factors being considered Economics is an empty speculation. This is a point which had forgotten in the 19th century and our rulers in India still proceed on the expedient of the economic difficulties of our people is possible, without establishing a conscious and complete identity of interest between the people and their Government. That is why, considering the political deadlock and the establishment of national policy as an essential pre-condition of the solution of the difficulties we have been talking about to-day.

When questioned as to whether he thought an early ending of the deadlock was in his opinion possible, Mr. Latthe replied with a smile on his face that an answer to a question of this kind is impossible at the end of a pretty long interview. "I believe," he said, "that the bulk of the people in India are tired of the present political deadlock and are looking for a peaceful resolution of the deadlock providing there is a real transfer of power to the people and there should be no inoperable difficulties in arriving at a compromise acceptable to all. The bulk of the people, again, wish that the transfer would be democratic and clearly real."

Mahatma On 21 Days' Fast

(Continued from Page 1)

ness to what is going on in the country, including the privations of the millions staking the land. If I do not accept your interpretation of my letter, you want me to make a positive suggestion. This, I might be able to do, only if you put me among the members of the Working Committee of the Congress.

If I could be convinced of my error or worse, of which you are evidently, I should need to consult nobody, so far as my own action is concerned, to make a full and open confession, and make ample amends. But I have not any conviction of error.

I wonder if you saw my letter to the Secretary to the Government of India, of 21st September 1942. I adhere to what I have said in it and in my letter to you of 14th August 1942.

Of Course, I Deplore

Of course I deplore the happenings which have taken place since 9th August last. But have I not laid the whole blame for them at the door of the Government of India?

Moreover, I could not express any opinion on events which I can not influence or control and of which I have but a one-sided account.

You are bound 'prima facie' to accept the accuracy of reports that may be placed before you by your departmental heads. But you will not expect me to do so. Such reports have before now, often proved fallible.

It was for that reason that in my letter of 31st December, I pleaded with you to convince me of the correctness of the information on which your conviction was based. You will, perhaps, appreciate my fundamental difficulty in making the statement you have expected me to make.

From House Top

This however I can say from the house-top, that I am as confirmed a believer in non-violence as I have ever been.

You may not know that any violence on the part of Congress workers, I have condemned openly and unequivocally. I have even done public penance more than once. I must not worry you with examples.

The point I wish to make is that on every such occasion I was a free man.

This time, the retracting as I have submitted, lies with the Government. You will forgive me for expressing an opinion challenging yours. I am certain that nothing but good would have resulted if you had stayed your hand and granted me the interview which I had announced, on the night of the 8th August, I was to seek. But that was not to be.

Here, may I remind you that the Government of India have before now owned their mistakes, as for instance, in the Punjab when the late General Dyer was condemned, in the United Provinces when a corner of a mosque in Cawnpore was restored and in Bengal when the partition was annulled.

All these things were done in spite of great and previous mob violence.

(1) If you want me to act singly convince me that I was wrong, I will make ample amends.

(2) If you want me to make any proposal on behalf of the Congress you should put me among the Congress Working Committee members. I do plead with you to make up your mind to end the impasse.

If I am obscure or have not answered your letter fully please point out the omissions and I shall make an attempt to give you satisfaction.

I have no mental reservation.

I find that my letters to you are sent through the Government of Bombay. This procedure must involve some loss of time. As time is of the essence in this matter, perhaps you will issue instructions that my letters to you may be sent directly by the Superintendent of this Camp—I am, Your Sincere Friend, M. K. GANDHI.

VICEROY'S REPLY.

(Personal)
Dear Mr. Gandhi,
Many thanks for your personal letter of the 19th Jan. which I have just received, and which I need not say I have read with close care any attention. But I am still, I fear, rather in the dark. I made clear to you in my last letter that, however, reluctantly, the course of events, and my familiarity with what has been taking place, has left me no choice but to regard the Congress movement, and you as its authorised and fully empowered spokesmen, at the time of the decision of last August. As responsible for the sad campaign of violence and crime, and revolutionary activity which has done so much harm, and so much injury to India's credit, since last August. I note what you say about non-violence.

THE TRUE POSITION

I am very glad to read your unequivocal condemnation of violence, and I am well aware of the importance which you have given to that article of your creed in the past but the events that are happening today show that it has not met with the full support of certain—at any rate—of your followers, and the mere fact that they may have fallen short of an ideal which you have advocated is no answer to the relations of those who have lost their lives, and to those themselves who have lost their property or suffered severe injury as a result of violent activities on the part of Congress and its supporters. And I cannot

I fear accept as an answer your suggestion that "the whole blame has been laid by you yourself at the door of the Government of India. We are dealing with facts in this matter, and they have to be faced. And while, as I made clear in my last letter, I am very anxious to have from you anything that you have to say or any specific proposition that you may have to make the position remains that it is not the Government of India but Congress and yourself that are on their justification in this matter.

2. If, therefore, you are anxious to inform me that you repudiate or dissociate yourself from the resolution of the 9th August and the policy which that resolution represents, and if you can give me appropriate assurances as regards the future, I shall, I need not say be very ready to consider the matter further. It is of course very necessary to be clear on that point, and you will not, I know, take it amiss that I should make

that clear in the plainest possible words.

3. I will ask the Governor of Bombay to arrange that any communication from you should be sent through him, which will I trust reduce delay in its transmission.

Yours sincerely,
LINLITHGOW.

MAHATMA'S REPLY

Jan. 29th, 1943.
Dear Lord Linlithgow,
I must thank you warmly for your prompt reply to my letter of 19th instant. I wish I could agree with you that your letter is clear and sure you do not wish to imply by clearness simply that you hold a particular opinion strongly. I have pleaded and would continue to plead till the last breath that you should at least make an attempt to convince me of the validity of the opinion you hold that the August Resolution of the Congress is responsible for the popular violence that broke out on 9th August last and after, even though it broke out after the wholesale arrest of principal Congress workers. Was not the drastic and unwarranted action of the Government responsible for the reported violence?

You have not even said what part of the August resolution is bad or offensive in your opinion. That resolution is in no way a retraction by the Congress of its policy of non-violence. It is definitely against Fascism in every shape or form. It tends co-operation in war effort under circumstances which alone can make effective and nation-wide co-operation possible. Is all this open to reproach? Objection may be raised to that clause of the resolution which contemplated Civil Disobedience. But that itself cannot constitute an objection since the principle of Civil Disobedience is impliedly conceded in what is known as the "Gandhi-Irwin Pact." Even that Civil Disobedience was not to be started before knowing the result of the meeting of which I was to seek from you an appointment.

Then, take the unproved, and in my opinion, unprovable charges hurled against the Congress and me by so responsible a Minister as the Secretary of State for India.

Surely I can say with safety that it is for Government to justify their action by solid evidence, not by mere "ipse dixit."

COROLLARY OF MOSAIC LAW

But you throw in my face the facts of murders by persons reputed to be Congressmen. I see the fact of murders as clearly, I hope, as you do. My answer is that the Government goaded the people to the point of madness. They started leonine violence in the shape of the arrests already referred to. That is not any less so, because it is organised on a scale so gigantic that it displaces the Mosaic law of tooth for tooth by that of ten thousand for one—not to mention the corollary of the Mosaic law, i.e., of non-resistance as enunciated by Jesus Christ. I cannot interpret in any other manner the repressive measures of the all-powerful Government of India.

Add to this tale of woe the privations of the poor millions due to India-wide scarcity which I cannot help thinking might have been largely mitigated, if not altogether prevented, had there been a 'bona fide' National Government responsible to a popularly elected assembly.

LAST RESORT TO SATYAGRAHA

If then I cannot get soothing balm for my pain, I must resort to the law prescribed for Satyagrahis, namely, a fast according to capacity. I must as commence after the early morning breakfast of the 9th February a fast for 21 days ending on the morning of the 2nd March. Usually, during my fasts, I take water with the addition of salts. But nowadays my system refuses water. This time therefore, I propose to add juices of citrus fruit to make water drinkable. For, my wish is not to fast unto death, but to survive the ordeal, if God so wills. This fast can be ended sooner by the Government giving the needed relief.

I am not marking this letter personal as I did the two previous ones. They were in no way confidential. They were a mere personal appeal.

I am,
Your Sincere Friend,
M. K. GANDHI.

'OMISSION' FILLED IN

The following was inadvertently omitted: The Government have evidently ignored or overlooked the very material fact that the Congress by its August Resolution asked nothing for itself. All its demands were for the whole people. As you should be aware, the Congress was willing and prepared for the Government inviting Mr. M. A. Jinnah to form a National Government subject to such agreed adjustments as may be necessary for the duration of the war, such Government being responsible to a duly elected assembly. Being isolated from the Working Committee except Shrimati Sarojini Devi, I do not know its present mind. But the Committee is not likely to have changed its mind.

VICEROY'S LETTER

Feb. 5th 1943.
Dear Mr. Gandhi,
Many thanks for your letter of 29th January which I have just received. I have read it, as always, with great care and with every anxiety to follow your mind and to do full justice to your argument. But I fear that my view of the responsibility of Congress and of yourself personally for the lamentable disorders of last autumn remains unchanged.

2. In my last letter I said that my knowledge of the facts left me no choice but to regard the Congress movement, and you as its authorised and fully empowered spokesmen, at the time of the decision of last August as responsible for the campaign of violence and crime that subsequently broke out. In reply you have reiterated your request that I should attempt to convince you that my opinion is correct. I would readily have responded earlier to that request were it not that your letters have no indication, such as I should have been entitled to expect, that you have sought the information with an open mind.

In each of them you have expressed profound distrust of the published reports of the recent happenings, although in your last letter, on the basis of the information, you have not hesitated to lay the whole blame for them on the Government of India. In the same letter you have stated that I cannot expect you to accept the accuracy of the official reports on which I rely. It is not therefore, clear to me how you expect me to desire me to convince you of anything. But in fact, the Government of India have never made any secret of their reasons for holding the Congress and its leaders responsible for the deplored acts of violence, sabotage and terrorism that have occurred since the Congress resolution of the 8th August declared a "Mass Struggle" in support of its demands, appointed you as its leader and authorised all Congressmen to act for themselves in the event of interference with the leadership of the movement.

"A CONCERTED PLAN"

A body which passes a resolution in such terms is hardly entitled to disclaim responsibility for any events that followed it. There is evidence that you and your friends expected this policy to lead to violence, and that you were prepared to condone it, and that the violence that ensued formed part of a concerted plan, conceived long before the arrest of Congress leaders. The general nature of the case against the Congress has been publicly stated by the Home Member in his speech in the Central Legislative Assembly on 15th September last, and if you need further information I would refer you to it.

"UNDERGROUND CONGRESS ORGANISATION"

I enclose a complete copy in case the press version that you must have seen were not sufficient. I need only add that all the mass of evidence that has since come to light has confirmed the conclusions then reached. I have ample information that the campaign of sabotage has been conducted under secret instructions, circulated in the name of the All-India Congress Committee: that well-known Congressmen have organised and freely taken part in acts of violence and murder; and that even now an underground Congress Organisation exists in which, among others, the wife of

LATEST COMMERCIAL

COTTON

MARCH.
New York, Feb. 10.
Previous closing 1871
To-day's opening 1947
Difference -64

CROSS RATES
T. T. NEW YORK ON LONDON
New York, Feb. 10.
Previous closing 4.02 1/2
To-day's opening 4.02 1/2
Difference not received

T. T. LONDON ON NEW YORK
London, Feb. 10.
Previous closing 4.02 1/2
To-day's opening 4.02 1/2
Difference not received

LONDON BULLION
LONDON GOLD
London, Feb. 10.
London Gold (23.5-0) 23.5-0
LONDON SILVER
London, Feb. 10.
Spot (23 1/2) 23 1/2
Forward (23 1/2) 23 1/2

LONDON ON BOMBAY
London, Feb. 10.
London on Bombay (1.5 1/2) 1.5 1/2
New York on Bombay (30.36) 30.36

3 months (1 1/2 to 1 1/4 per cent) 1 1/2
to 1 1/4 per cent
4 months (1 1/2 to 1 1/4 per cent) 1 1/2
to 1 1/4 per cent
5 months (1 1/2 to 1 1/4 per cent) 1 1/2
to 1 1/4 per cent

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

New York, Feb. 10.
New York Stock Exchange opening prices:
General Motors (dol 47 1/8) dol 47 1/8
Anaconda Copper (dol 25 5/8) dol 25 3/8
U. S. Steel Common (dol 50 3/4) dol 51 1/4
U. S. Steel Preferred (dol 114 7/8) dol 115 1/4

LONDON COMMODITIES
SEEDS
Castor seeds Bombay February/March (235) 235 quoted
Calcutta February/March (226) 226 quoted
Linsed La Plata February/March un quoted

Groundnut Coromandel February/March
East Coast Indian shipment (230 1/2) 230 1/2 quoted
West Coast Indian shipment (231 1/2) 231 1/2 quoted
LONDON METALS
London, Feb. 10.
Electric Copper (262) 262
Lead (225) 225
Glasgow Iron No. 3 (131 sh.) 131 sh.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

The London Stock Exchange was quiet to-day.

NEW YORK COTTON MARKET

Bombay, Feb. 10.

On Tuesday, the New York cotton market was quietly steady with a moderate turnover. Prices fluctuated within a narrow range with scattered March liquidation before issuance of tenders. The first tender day falls on February 23rd. There was also scattered hedging against routine trade fixing and scattered covering. Outside interest was negligible and traders are confused over 1943 acreage situation and tendency to await stabilisation and Director Byrnes radio address.

The market opened at a decline of 2 points with March quoted at 19.72 and declined to 19.59 which was the lowest level. Later prices improved to 19.76 and the market closed at a net decline of 3 points to a rise of 3 points. Spot cotton prices declined 5 points at 21.40c, per lb.

The New Orleans cotton futures market closed at a net decline of 3 points. Spot cotton prices declined 5 points at 21.40c, per lb.

PRIVATE CABLES—

New York March highest 19.76-02
New York March lowest 19.59-02
New York March average 19.67-02

NEW YORK COTTON
New York, Feb. 9.
March 19.71-02
May 19.49-01
July 19.36-02
October 19.21-02
December 19.19-02
January 19.16-01
Middling Spot 21.40-05

NEW ORLEANS COTTON
New York, Feb. 9.
March 19.97-02
May 19.74-02
July 19.60-02
October 19.43-01
December 19.39-01
January 19.35-02
Middling Spot 20.37-02

NEW YORK COTTON NOON CALL
New York, Feb. 9.
March 19.72
May 19.48
July 19.34

No Trading in City Markets

All city markets were officially open today but no business was done in Shares, Cotton, Gold, Silver and Seeds bazaar.

a member of the Congress Working Committee plays a prominent part, and which is actively engaged in planning the bomb outrages and other acts of terrorism that have disgusted the whole country. If we do not act on all this information or make it publicly known it is because the time is not yet ripe; but you may rest assured that the charges against the Congress will have to be met sooner or later and it will then be for you and your colleagues to clear yourselves before the world if you can. And if in the meanwhile you yourself, by any action such as you now appear to be contemplating, attempt to find an easy way out, the judgment will go against you by default.

'LEGITIMATE'
3. I have read with some surprise your statement that the principle of Civil Disobedience is implicitly conceded in the Delhi Settlement of the 5th March 1931, which you refer to as the "Gandhi-Irwin Pact." I have again looked at that document. Its basis

(Continued On Page 6)

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by Y. G. KRISHNAMURTI
Author of "JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: THE MAN AND HIS IDEAS" etc.

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PROF. S. SRIKANTHA SASTRI
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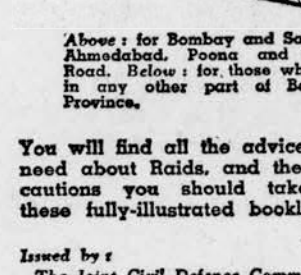
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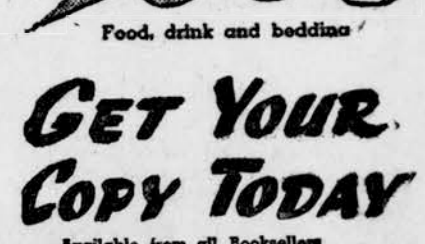
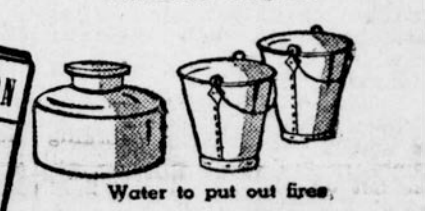
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Thursday, February 11, 1943

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The Bombay Chronicle

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No Wish To Fast Unto Death

Mahatma Deplores But Disclaims Responsibility For Excesses In Country

VICEROY ON SILENCE OF MAHATMA AND CONGRESS LEADERS IN NOT CONDEMNING VIOLENCE

NEW DELHI, Feb. 10.

Mr. Gandhi has informed the Viceroy that he proposes to undertake a fast of three weeks' duration from the 10th of February, says a press communique.

The communique adds that it is to be a fast according to capacity and during it, Mahatma Gandhi proposes to add juices of citrus fruit to water to make the water drinkable, as his wish is not to fast to death but to survive the ordeal.

Gandhiji intended originally to start his fast on February 9th; but later changed the date to 10th.

The following is the full text of the communique.

Mr. Gandhi has informed His Excellency the Viceroy that he proposes to undertake a fast of three weeks' duration from the 10th of February. It is to be a fast according to capacity, and during it Mr. Gandhi proposes to add juices of citrus fruit to water to make the water drinkable, as his wish is not to fast to death, but to survive the ordeal.

The Government of India deplore the use of the weapon of fasting to achieve political ends. There can in their judgment be no justification for it, and Mr. Gandhi has himself admitted in the past that it contains an element of coercion.

The Government of India can only express its regret that Mr. Gandhi should think it necessary to employ such a weapon on this occasion, and should seek a justification for it in anything which Government may have said or done in connection with the movement initiated by him and his co-workers in the Congress Party.

The Government of India have no intention on their part of allowing the fast to deflect their policy. Nor will they be responsible for its consequences as Mr. Gandhi's health.

They cannot prevent Mr. Gandhi from fasting. It was their wish, however, that if he decided to do so

he should do so as a free man and under his own arrangements, so as to bring out clearly that the responsibility for any fast and its consequences rested exclusively with him.

They accordingly informed Mr. Gandhi that he would be released for the purpose and for the duration of the fast of which he had notified them, and with him any members of the party living with him who may wish to accompany him.

Mr. Gandhi in reply has expressed his readiness to abandon his intended fast if released, failing which he will fast in detention, in other words it is now clear that only his unconditional release could prevent him from fasting.

Not Prepared

This the Government of India are not prepared to concede. Their position remains the same: That is to say, they are ready to set Mr. Gandhi at liberty for the purpose and duration of his fast. But if Mr. Gandhi is not prepared to take advantage of that fact and if he fasts while in detention, he does so solely on his own responsibility and at his own risk.

He would be at liberty in that event to have his own medical attendants and also to receive visits from friends with the permission of Government during its period.

The Government of India propose to issue in due course, a full statement on the origin and development of the movement which was initiated in August last, and the measures which Government have been compelled to adopt to deal with it, but they think this is a suitable occasion for a brief review of the events of the last few months.

Responsibility Repudiated

Mr. Gandhi, in his correspondence with Viceroy, has repudiated all responsibility for the consequences which have flowed from the "Quit India" demand which he and the Congress Party have put forward. This contention will not bear examination.

Mr. Gandhi's own statement, before the movement was launched, envisaged anarchy as an alternative to the existing order, and referred to the struggle "as a fight to the finish in the course of which he would not hesitate to run any risk, however great."

As much has been made of his offer to meet the Viceroy, it is necessary to point out at a press interview on the 14th of July after the Working Committee resolution was passed, Mr. Gandhi stated that there was no room left in the proposal for withdrawal or negotiation; there was no question of one more chance; after all, it was an open rebellion which was to be as short and as swift as possible. His last message was "Do Or Die."

The speeches of those most closely associated with Mr. Gandhi have been even more explicit and have given a clear indication of what the Congress High Command had in mind in launching their attack—an attack which would, if realised have most seriously imperilled the whole cause of the United Nations.

against Government as by law established, and against the agencies and services by which the life of the country was being conducted—in a period, be it noted, of exceptional stress and strain and of grave danger to India from Japanese aggression.

The instructions issued by the various Congress organisations, contained in leaflets which were found to be freely circulating in almost every part of India—and which, on the evidence, cannot all be disowned as unauthorised—gave specific directions as to the methods which were to be employed for bringing the administration to a standstill.

The circular of the 29th July emanating from the Andhra Provincial Congress Committee is an instance in point.

Organised Arson

It is noteworthy in this connection that in widely separated areas all over the country, identical methods of attacks on railways and other communications were employed, requiring the use of special implements and highly technical knowledge.

Control rooms and block instruments in railway stations came in for special attention and destruction of telegraph and telephone lines and equipment was carried out in a manner which denoted careful planning and close knowledge of their working.

If these manifestations of rebellious activities are to be regarded as the result not of Congress teachings, but as a manifestation of the popular resentment against the arrest of Mr. Gandhi and the Congress leaders the question may well be asked to which section of the public the tens of thousands of men engaged in these violent and subversive activities belonged.

If it is claimed that it is not Congressmen who have been responsible, it would be extraordinary, to say the least, if the blame were to be laid on non-Congress elements.

The country is, in effect, asked to believe that those who own allegiance to the Congress Party have behaved in an exemplary non-violent manner, and that it is persons who are outside the Congress fold who have registered their resentment at the arrest of leaders of a movement which they did not profess to follow.

They Not Responsible

A more direct answer to the argument is to be had in the fact that known Congressmen have been repeatedly found engaged in incitements to violence, or in prosecuting Congress activities which have led to grave disorders.

That political parties and groups outside the Congress Party who have no delusions on the subject may be judged from the categorical way in which they have disassociated themselves from the movement, and condemned the violence to which it has given rise.

In particular, the Muslim League has, on more than one occasion, emphasised the character and intentions of the policy pursued by the Congress Party. As early as the 20th of August last, the Working Committee of the League expressed the view, reiterated many times since, that by the slogan "Quit India" what was really meant was supreme control of the Government of the country by the Congress, and that the mass civil disobedience movement had resulted in lawlessness and considerable destruction of life and property.

Other elements in the political life of the country have expressed themselves in a similar vein, and followers of the Congress persist in their contention that the resultant violence was no part of their policy or programme, they are doing so against the weight of overwhelming evidence.

Mr. Gandhi in his letter to the Viceroy has sought to fasten responsibility on the Government of India. The Government of India emphatically repudiate this suggestion.

"Preposterous"

It is clearly preposterous to contend that it is they who are responsible for the violence of the last few months which so gravely disorganised the normal life of the country—and, incidentally, aggravated the difficulties of the food situation—at a time when the united energies of the people might have been devoted to the vital task of repelling the enemy and of striking a blow for the freedom of India, the Commonwealth and the world.

Mahatma On 21 Days' Fast

(Continued From Page 5)

was that Civil Disobedience would be "effectively discontinued" by that certain "reciprocal action" would be taken by Government. It was inherent in such a document that it should take notice of the existence of Civil Disobedience. But I can find nothing in it to suggest that Civil Disobedience was recognised as being in any circumstances legitimate. And I cannot make it too plain that it is not so regarded by my Government.

4. To accept the point of view which you put forward would be to concede that the authorised Government of the country, on which lies the responsibility for maintaining peace and good order, should allow subversive and revolutionary movements, described by you yourself as open rebellion, to take place unchallenged; that they should allow preparations for violence, for the interruption of communications, for attacks on innocent persons, for the murder of police officers and others to proceed unchecked. My Government and I are open indeed to the charge that we have not taken drastic action at an earlier stage against you and against the Congress leaders.

OPPORTUNITY TO WITHDRAW

But my anxiety and that of my Government has throughout been to give you and the Congress organisation, every possible opportunity to withdraw from the position which you have decided to take up. Your statements of last June and July, the original resolution of the Working Committee of the 14th July, and your declaration on the same day that there was no room left for negotiation, that after all it was an open rebellion, are all of them grave and significant, even without your final exhortation to "do or die." But with a patience that was perhaps misplaced, it was decided to wait until the resolution of the All-India Congress Committee made it clear that there could be no further toleration of the Congress attitude. If Government was to discharge its responsibility to the people of India.

5. Let me in conclusion say how greatly I regret, having regard to your health and your age, that you have taken the step that you now have in mind to take. I hope and pray that wiser counsels may yet prevail with you. But the decision whether or not to undertake a fast of this kind, and the attendant risks is clearly one that must be taken by you alone and the responsibility for which and for its consequences must rest on you alone. I trust sincerely that in the light of what I have said you may think better of your resolution; and I would welcome a decision on your part to think better of it, not only because of my own natural reluctance to see you willfully risk your life, but because I regard the use of a fast for political purposes as a form of political blackmail ("himsa") for which there can be no moral justification, and understood from your own previous writings that this was also your view.

Yours, Sincerely,

LINLITHGOW.

MAHATMA'S REPLY

February 7, 1943.

Dear Lord Linlithgow, I have to thank you for your long reply dated the 5th February last. I would take your last point first, namely, the contemplated fast which begins on 9th instant. Your letter from a Satyagrahi's standpoint, is an invitation to fast. No doubt the responsibility for the step, and its consequences will be solely mine. You have allowed an expression to slip from your pen for which I was unprepared. In the concluding sentence of the second paragraph you describe the step as an attempt "to find an easy way out." That you, as a friend, can impute such a base and cowardly motive to me passes comprehension. You have also described it as "a form of political blackmail." And you quote my previous writings on the subject against me. I abide by my writings. I hold that there is nothing inconsistent in them with the contemplated step. I wonder whether you have yourself read those writings.

I do claim that I have approached you with an open mind when I asked you to convince me of my error. "Profound distrust" of the published reports is in no way inconsistent with my having an open mind.

"UNSUPPORTED IMPUTATIONS"

You say that there is evidence that—I leave my friends out for the moment—I "expected this policy to lead to violence, that I was 'prepared to condone it', and that 'the violence that' ensued formed part of a concerted plan conceived long before the arrest of Congress leaders." I have seen no evidence in support of such a

serious charge. You admit that part of the evidence has yet to be published. The speech of the Home Member, of which you have favoured me with a copy, may be taken as the opening speech of the prosecution counsel and nothing more. It contains unsupporting imputation against Congressmen. Of course he has described the violent outburst in graphic language. But he has not said why it took place when it did. You have condemned men and women before trying them and hearing their defence. Surely there is nothing wrong in my asking you to show me the evidence on which you hold them guilty. What you say in your letter corresponds to the canons of English jurisprudence.

If the wife of a member of the Working Committee is actively engaged in "planning the bomb outrages and other acts of terrorism," she should be tried before a court of law and punished if found guilty. The lady you refer to could only have done the things attributed to her after the wholesale arrests of 9th August last, which I have dared to describe as lionine violence.

You say that the time is not yet ripe to publish the charges against the Congress. Have you ever thought of the possibility of their being found baseless when they are put before an impartial tribunal? Or that some of the condemned persons might have died in the meanwhile, or that some of the evidence that the living can produce might become unavailable?

SETTLEMENT OF 1931

I reiterate the statement that the principle of Civil Disobedience is implicitly conceded in the settlement of 5th March 1931, arrived at between the then Viceroy on behalf of the Government of India and myself on behalf of the Congress. I hope you know that the principal Congressmen were discharged before that settlement was even thought of. Certain reparations were made to Congressmen under that settlement. Civil Disobedience was discontinued only on conditions being fulfilled by the Government. That by itself was, in my opinion, an acknowledgment of its legitimacy, of course under given circumstances. It therefore, seems somewhat strange to find you maintain that Civil Disobedience "cannot be recognised as being in any circumstances legitimate" by your Government. You ignore the practice of the British Government, which has recognised this legitimacy under the name of "passive resistance."

Lastly you read into my letters a meaning which is wholly inconsistent with my declaration. In one of them, of adherence to unadulterated non-violence, for you say in your letter under reply that "acceptance of my point of view would be to concede that the authorised Government of the country on which lies the responsibility for maintaining peace and good order, should allow movements to take place that would admit preparations for violence, interruption of communications, for attacks on innocent persons, for murders of police officers and others to proceed unchecked." I must be a strange friend of yours whom you believe to be capable of asking for recognition of such things as lawful.

"APPEAL TO HIGHEST TRIBUNAL"

I have not attempted an exhaustive reply to the views and statements attributed to me. This is not the place nor the time for such a reply. I have only picked out those things which in my opinion demanded an immediate answer. You have left me no loophole for escaping the ordeal I have set before myself. I begin it on the 9th instant with the clearest possible conscience. Despite your description of it as "a form of political blackmail," it is on my part meant to be an appeal to the Highest Tribunal for Justice which I have failed to secure from you. If I do not survive the ordeal, I shall go to the Judgment Seat with the fullest faith in my innocence. Posterity will judge between you as representative of an all-powerful Government and me as an humble man who has tried to serve his country and humanity through it.

My last letter was written against time, and therefore a material paragraph went in as postscript. I now send herewith a fair copy typed by Peareyal who has taken Mahadeo Desai's place. You will find the postscript paragraph restored to the place where it should have been.

I am,

Your Sincere Friend,
M. K. GANDHI.
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